

BILLERICAY

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

BRENTWOOD :

Wilson and Whitworth Limited, Printers, High Street.

Billericay Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1920.

Gentlemen,

The following is my Annual Report:

Our Sanitary District consists of 24 parishes of an acreage (exclusive of the area covered by water) of 49,350 acres, less the acreage of Brentwood Urban District.

The population according to the 1911 census was 21,557. This included the population of the Mental Hospital and also of the Barracks at Warley.

The estimated population to the middle of 1920 is, for purposes of the birth rate 21,415, and for death rate purposes 20,390. These figures exclude the two big institutions mentioned above.

The total number of births registered belonging to the district was 455, giving a birth rate of 21.2 per 1,000, as against 14.4 last year.

The Registrar General's return for England and Wales gives a birth-rate of 25.4, and a death-rate of 12.4 per 1,000 of the population. It will be noticed therefore that the figures for this district compare well with those for England and Wales.

There were 23 deaths of Infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 50.5, an increase of 10 per 1,000 births over last year.

The district is an undulating agricultural one, varying from a height of 333ft. above sea level to 30ft. above.

Its water shed drains to the sea by means of the rivers Thames, Crouch and Blackwater.

The chief industry of the district is farming, and largely of the dairy-farming type.

Each year it becomes more and more a residential district for people who earn their livelihood in London.

The only voluntary General Hospital is the Brentwood Cottage Hospital, situated on Shenfield Common. The Workhouse Hospital at Billericay is now largely used as a General Hospital for acute and emergency cases. Both of these hospitals are fully used, and difficulty often occurs in finding accommodation for cases to be admitted.

The Guardians of Billericay Union now make a weekly charge, in a considerable number of the cases admitted to the Workhouse Hospital, to those patients whose financial circumstances are such as they are able to contribute; this seems a fair and just thing, as the hospital is used by people who are not legally paupers. Undoubtedly, the war taught many persons the advantages of hospital treatment over home treatment, and the tendency for people to wish to come to a hospital is a growing one, and the Guardians of Billericay Union by making a charge in those cases which can afford it, remove the taint of pauperism attaching to a Workhouse Hospital which formerly prevented many people coming into such a place, and which was often detrimental to them. As long as this, as other districts, abounds in unfit and borderland houses, such a hospital as this, which is really a rate-aided one, will be increasingly used, for in these unfit, inconvenient and often crowded houses, an inmate who falls ill has an unfavourable chance of recovery owing to the condition of the home and the lack of the possibility of getting adequate nursing attention.

The Cottage Hospital on Shenfield Common also makes a weekly charge to its patients now.

The very large question of meeting expenses in any hospital supported entirely by voluntary contributions has become very acute since the war, and also the question of providing new General Hospitals, larger or smaller according to the requirements of the districts to be supplied, in areas where no hospital accommodation is available, will require to be faced by this country. State controlled hospitals mean many harassing regulations, with a multiplication of more or less useless returns to be filled in; it means less freedom, less humaneness for its staff in dealing with its patients, and the present experience of State control points to greater prodigality of expenditure with smaller efficiency than in the cases of private control.

My suggestion is that the present voluntary system of subscriptions from those who can afford to give, along with workmen's contributions be maintained, and that, in addition, grants in aid be made towards existing voluntary hospitals or towards the erection of new ones, from the rates rather than by a Treasury grant, because rating is in a position to draw money from a larger number of the population, especially from that class of the population who will and do make use of hospitals, than Treasury taxation can do.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

The water supply of the district is chiefly from two sources: That for the eastern side is supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company, that for the western side by the South Essex Water Company. The water supply by both of these Companies is constant in the district.

The Southend Company obtain their water from deep artesian wells, which in most cases go well into the Chalk stratum and sometimes lower.

It is probable that in some of these wells the water really comes from large underground rivers, running in fissures in the chalk, these underground rivers probably arising from the river Thames.

The Southend Company's water as supplied in this district is noticeably a soft one; some wells more so than others. The Slicegate wells which supply Great Burstead have only four degrees of hardness in their water. Although these waters are soft, none of them have any solvent action on lead, but the Company prefer to use glazed iron pipes.

Vital Statistics.

Causes of Death.				Male.	Female.
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...		4	2
Influenza	...	...		6	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...		6	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...		1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...		1	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...		15	14
Rheumatic Fever	...	...		1	—
Organic Heart Disease	...	...		17	13
Bronchitis	...	...		4	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		7	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...		2	2
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...		1	1
Appendicitis and Typhitis	...	...		—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...		1	—
Nephritis and Brights Disease	...	...		4	4
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...		5	2
Suicide	...	...		2	—
Other Defined Diseases	...	...		42	46
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...		2	2
Special Causes included above					
Leprosy	...	...		1	—
Total Deaths from all causes	...	...		125	106
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (total)	...	...		10	10
Illegitimate	...	...		2	1
Total Births	...	...		230	225
Legitimate	...	...		223	212
Illegitimate	...	...		7	13
Population for Birth-rate, 21,415.					
Population for Death-rate, 20,390.					

The South Essex Company also draw their water from deep wells, it is not as soft a water as that of the Southend Company.

The provision of water by these two Companies has been a great boon to this district, much of the district, especially the eastern side, lies on thick London Clay, which contains no springs, and therefore no possibility of surface wells. Such parts of the district as this were formerly dependant on filtered rainwater collected from roofs of buildings—a very uncertain supply in summer, and one which never provided a constant supply of pure water all the year round.

There are still many areas situated away from the public mains dependant on such supply.

The village of Mountnessing is still without an efficient and wholesome water supply. However, the Southend Company are now prepared to pump water from the Mountnessing bore, but are only going to put down half a mile of water main. This is a step in the right direction, but does not go far enough. The Company should be urged to extend their proposed main for a greater distance than half a mile.

Parts of East Horndon are also much in need of the extension of the public main. Parts of Basildon likewise are in similar need; the Southend Company has agreed to put a standpipe in the end of their main by Basildon Church from which the occupiers of houses on the south side can obtain water by carting or man handling.

Rivers and Streams.

The district abounds in small streams; on the eastern side these all ultimately empty into the river Crouch, on the western side into the rivers Wid and Roding.

Into some of these streams the effluent from the various sewage disposal works flow, but there is no real pollution, as the effluents are analysed at intervals, and action taken when an effluent shows more than ten per cent of impurity.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A well-equipped up-to-date sewage disposal works deals with the sewage from the more populous portions of Shenfield and South Weald. The process employed is the oxygenating one. These works also deal with the sewage of Brentwood Urban District.

A smaller works situated at the eastern side of Shenfield Common deals with a small area round about there. Another small disposal works deals with a part of Mountnessing.

Great Burstead, from the top of the hill near the Schools, and the portion of Mountnessing parish adjacent to Billericay, is also dealt with by a disposal works.

In parts of East Horndon and Ingrave, there being no proper means of sewage disposal, much of the sewage is conveyed from dwelling houses and other premises by unventilated drains which empty their untreated sewage into the ditches of Thorndon Park and other adjacent land. A nuisance exists from this, and gradually each year as this part of the district develops these drains have to be extended to carry the nuisance further from dwelling houses; some day there must come a finality to this process. Undoubtedly there is urgent need for an efficient sewage disposal works for this part of the district.

The parishes of Vange, Pitsea and Bowers Gifford are becoming each year more populous. These parishes have a good water supply from the Southend Company's mains. There is no means of disposing of their sewage, at present it is done very inefficiently and in a very haphazard manner by draining into cesspools or ditches. Nuisances from this are constantly arising. This part of the district likewise needs an efficient sewage disposal scheme.

Perhaps the part of the district at present without any safe means of sewage disposal which most urgently requires such is Laindon, Lee Chapel, and that part of Little Burstead adjacent to Laindon Railway Station. Many new houses have been erected and are already occupied.

A scheme of sewage disposal here should include the parish of Langdon Hills, in the Orsett Rural District. It should be a large and comprehensive scheme. The cost was estimated at £18,000, and that was considered a prohibitive figure. I do not know whether now, two years after, the scheme could be carried out for a cost which would not be prohibitive, nor do I know at what figure this scheme would be considered feasible. I do know that the need for the carrying out of such a scheme is urgent.

The cesspool at Laindon Station has given rise to nuisance on several occasions during the year. Much correspondence has gone between this Council and the Midland Railway Company, and a number of interviews between this Council's Surveyor and the Railway Company's Engineer have taken place. The Railway Company refused to consider the scheme advocated by me, which would have drained their station and their cottages into a small septic tank system; their last suggestion is to pipe

the surface water into a ditch and thus prevent it going into the cesspool which will in future take only sewage, and to empty the cesspool at intervals—this can only be a temporary compromise. I regret that the other scheme is not to be carried out, as with it, it would have been possible to drain the shops near Laindon Station and would have been a great boon, their only method of drainage now is into the roadside ditch.

The man who proposes and urges large schemes of sewage disposal to-day is looked at rather askance, and considered to be an idealist, possibly a lunatic, rather than a practical man, a spendthrift even, with no consideration for the ratepayers' pockets; all such men are not really mad, they are ratepayers equally with the ratepayers' elected representatives who constitute the various sanitary authorities of this country. They know where the shoe pinches, they realise the need for lessening of public expenditure to what is essential.

There is nothing in which we require to take the long view more than in sanitation and health administration. We are not building for ourselves and our own generation only, we are building for those who are to come after us, for those yet unborn. Is it to be said of our generation, by those who come after us, that our minds were too small, too walled in, to see that large expenditure now in the matter of sewage disposal may be more economical in the long run than waiting, ever waiting?

Experiments are being conducted now in a new method of sewage disposal which will lessen, if successful, the area of ground required for sewage disposal works, and lessen very considerably the cost of putting down these works; the process has been given the name of "Activated Sludge." I am very hopeful that this will turn out a success in dealing with large quantities of sewage, on a small scale it seems so far to act very well.

I venture to suggest to this authority that they should have the Ingrave-East Horndon and the Bowers Gifford-Vange-Pitsea areas surveyed, and schemes and plans drawn up for these areas now, and the cost of them estimated against the day when it will be possible to provide the money for these schemes, or against the day when such schemes may become so urgently necessary as to brook no delay in carrying them out.

Closet Accommodation.

Except in the areas connected with a sewage disposal system all the closets are of the pail or privy cesspit type, mostly of the former.

No. of Pail Closets, 1,717.

No. of Water Closets, 2,541,

of which 1,625 have an automatic flush, and 926 are hand flushed.

No. of Privies with covered middens, 110.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1920 into W.C.'s, 8.

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1920 into Pail Closets, 12.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is done in South Weald, Shenfield, Ingrave, East Horndon, Wickford and Great Burstead.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Nuisances Inspected, 308. Abated during 1920, 247.

Informal Notices served, 29. Complied with, 21.

Statutory Notices served, 103. Complied with, 81.

Schools.

Vange School was closed on July 25th owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria among the children attending it.

Wickford C.E. School was closed from October 8th to October 25th owing to an outbreak of Chicken Pox among the children attending this school.

Vange School was closed a second time on December 15th until after the Christmas holidays on account of an epidemic of Diphtheria of a very severe kind among the children attending it.

The work of connecting the latrines at Wickford C.E. School was carried out during the year by the School Managers after much pressure had been exerted many times.

All the Elementary Schools in the district have a water supply either from a public source or from wells. Mugs for the children to drink out of while at school are still too sparse in some of the schools.

I drew attention to the overcrowding and lack of efficient accommodation in the Ramsden Bellhouse School, in my report last year. Nothing has been done to remedy this state.

Milk Supply.

The milk produced within the district is of a pure and wholesome type. The distribution is adequate. The greater part of the milk produced in this district goes to London or Southend to be retailed there.

The Essex County Council take samples for analysis from time to time, and the London County Council do this when the milk arrives in London.

MILK (Mothers and Children) ORDER, 1919.—This order is in force in the district. Very few applications under it have been received.

MEAT.—Meat is inspected frequently, as are the slaughter houses. There is no public abattoir in the district, nearly every butcher has his own slaughter house. On the whole they are well kept and clean. I occasionally have to draw the attention of a butcher to the fact that his slaughter house could be cleaned better. There are 11 registered slaughter houses in the district, there are no licenced ones in addition.

No. of slaughter houses in use in the district:

		1914.	In January, 1920.	December, 1920	
Registered	...	7	...	10	11
Licenced	...	—	...	—	—

One bullock carcase and two sheep carcasses were condemned during the year on account of Tuberculosis.

Forty inspections of slaughter houses were made.

OTHER FOOD.—97-lbs. of bacon were condemned during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 12 such in the district.

Twenty-four inspections of these were made. Their condition was found to be quite satisfactory.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

Incidence of Infectious Disease.

			No. Notified.		No. admitted to the Isolation Hospital.	
Diphtheria	...	...	48	...	...	42
Scarlet Fever	...	...	50	...	...	40
Measles	...	...	22	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	4	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	15	...	...	10
Malaria	...	...	2	...	...	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	2	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	1	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	1	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	5	...	...	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	3	...	...	1
NpOphthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	...	...	—
Totals	...	...	154	...	...	97

Parishes in which the principal Zymotic Diseases occurred.

Name of Parish.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Measles
South Weald	... 4	... 5	... 1	... 4
Shenfield	... 4	... 2	... 2	... 6
Hutton	... 4	... 13	... 4	... 7
Ingrave	... 4	... 9	... —	... 1
Mountnessing	... —	... 3	... 2	... 1
East Horndon	... 1	... 3	... —	... 1
Great Burstead	... 2	... 5	... 4	... 1
Little Burstead	... 1	... —	... —	... —
Ramsden Bellhouse	... —	... 1	... —	... 1
Laindon	... 5	... —	... 1	... —
Lee Chapel	... 1	... —	... —	... 1
Nevendon	... —	... 5	... —	... —
Wickford	... 2	... —	... —	... 1
Pitsea	... 3	... 2	... —	... —
Vange	... 19	... 1	... —	... —

INFECTIOUS DISEASE GENERALLY.—154 cases were notified during 1920, as against 303 in 1919. (Tuberculosis is not included in these figures.) Of this number 97 were admitted into and treated in the Isolation Hospital, as against 107 in 1919.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were the two most prevalent diseases. There was an epidemic of Diphtheria in Vange among the children attending Vange School, chiefly in July; and another small epidemic of a very virulent type of Diphtheria in the same parish in December. In each instance the closing of the Council School at Vange stopped the disease from spreading.

The notification of Measles was discontinued at the end of March.

There has been no serious epidemic of Influenza during the year, and the disease has been of a milder type and not so frequently complicated by Pneumonia.

The one case of Cerebro-spinal Fever notified was admitted to the Isolation Hospital and recovered completely.

The one case of Dysentery notified was a relapsing case in an ex-service man who had contracted the disease overseas.

SMALL POX.—No primary vaccinations and no re-vaccinations were performed under the Small Pox Prevention Regulation, 1917.

Hospital Administration for Infectious Diseases.

This authority has a well-equipped up-to-date Hospital for Infectious Diseases, situated at Gooseberry Green, Billericay. Into it are admitted all types of infectious disease other than Small Pox and Tuberculosis.

The Hospital has 22 beds, divided up into 6, in separate cubicles in the Observation Block, and one pavilion of two 8-bedded wards. There is in addition an emergency asbestos hut which has two 4-bedded wards. The Hospital has again been very fully used during the year, 126 having been admitted and treated there, this is the largest number ever admitted in one year; of these 126 cases 29 were admitted from the Brentwood Urban District.

The details of the cases are given in the table of Infectious diseases.

There have been several changes in the Nursing staff during the year. Miss Jones, who had been Matron for 14½ years, left in October to be married, she had been an admirable Matron and Nurse, a general favourite, a good administrator, she left the Hospital in a most highly efficient state and made it not easy for any successor to fill her place.

The Council appointed Miss Cronk to the post of Matron, she had had considerable experience of infectious disease nursing and some experience as a Matron. The Nursing staff have been kept fully employed all the year, and my best thanks are due to them all for their attention to their work and for the ungrudging services rendered to the patients.

The Bacteriological work of the district was done by the Counties Public Health Laboratory, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., under the direction of Dr. John F. Beale, the County Council Bacteriologist.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—There is now one whole-time Sanitary Inspector for the whole district. He gets a lot of work to do, and now has the help of a casual man in the work of disinfecting houses; this help is very necessary.

There is one Surveyor for the whole district, and his time has been largely occupied on the housing question.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

No progress has been made in this very important department during the year. In 1919 a scheme for Health Visitors and Welfare Clinics was given much consideration by this authority, and it was agreed to put such a scheme into force. The County Council was approached regarding the scheme, and during the year joint conferences were held between Committees of this authority and the County Council, and although this authority keenly desired to adopt and carry out the Infant Welfare part of the 1918 Order, all conferences and correspondence only amounted to a waste of time. Every obstacle which could be raised to block the scheme was so raised by the County Council, and when it could no longer raise an obstacle it simply delayed and delayed by not answering letters directed to it for many weeks and even months. I realised, at the first conference held at River Plate House, that the County Council meant to oppose this authority working the scheme for their own district, and in the end their opposition has been successful, and the result is that still there are no Health Visitors for this district, and no regular system of Welfare Clinics established. The centralisation of this work is entirely and fundamentally bad. It must lead to inefficiency in working, as also to lack of economy. How can a County Council and its Medical Officer, represented by one of its Committees whose members never live in the district, know the requirements of, and be

intimately in touch with the needs of this district in this essentially human work, in the way that a Committee of the local authority and the district's Medical Officer of Health, who are in and out of the homes daily can? This craze for centralisation, this lust for power by a few men who endeavour to administer this department or that by spreading themselves on paper probably helps to satisfy the vanity of these men, but it leads to deplorable results and an undue waste of money. It is an endeavour to insert the thin edge of the wedge of a State Medical service, an endeavour to destroy freedom of action in medicine, it certainly tends to limit progress in medical science. It leads to a lack of interest among medical practitioners, district nurses, and mothers who feel that in their own local authority and its officers they have someone they know and often see, and can readily approach, whereas they know nothing of, nor ever see the high and mighty gentlemen of the County Council who endeavour to administer them from an office many miles away, and who really, only, end in interfering when and where they are not wanted.

The need for Maternity and Infant Welfare work in this district is very urgent. The scheme which the County Council are applying for powers for will not meet the needs.

An excellent Infant Welfare Clinic is now being run in Junction Road, South Weald, through the enthusiastic and kindly offices of some ladies. Another is shortly to be started in South Weald village by the members of the Women's Institute there.

Housing.

The Housing question is a difficult problem to solve.

This authority commenced building during the year

Eight cottages at Mountnessing,

Four cottages at Great Burstead,

Six cottages at South Weald,

Eight cottages at Ramsden Bellhouse and Ramsden Crays.

These twenty-six cottages will be completed during 1921.

In my last year's report I stated that 379 new cottages were required in this district. That need still exists. The twenty-six which will be completed in 1921 will really go a very small way towards supplying the needs of the district.

Tenders for twenty-six other cottages were received during the year, but were rejected as being too expensive by the

Ministry of Health. The Ministry has now ordered that no more cottages be built until the price comes down very considerably. This is really a very sound procedure. These cottages which are in course of erection are to cost over £1,000 each. Before the war this authority built a few excellent cottages at a cost of £167 each. The rentals to be charged for these post-war cottages varies from 12s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. a week.

The greatest need for cottages in this district was, and is, to replace many which are absolutely unfit for human habitation, there are at least 130 such, but these cottages are at a weekly rental of 2s. 6d. to 4s. It is obvious that such cottages cannot be closed and the occupants forced to go into cottages with a weekly rental of 12s. 6d. or over; the agricultural labourer, despite his increased wage, cannot afford to pay 12s. 6d. a week rent except in the cases where his children are of adult age and able to work and earn money, and so we get the result that the cottages being built by the local authority do not meet the needs of the very people for whom they were intended.

The Government in 1918 started out to make England a beautiful and happy country. 100,000 houses approved by the Ministry of Health were to be erected in one year all over the country. It was all to be done in a hurry. Presumably speculators seeing their opportunity bought up all the building material they could and sent prices soaring up.

The present policy of ceasing all building until prices become reasonable, although it does not provide houses for immediate requirements, is the better policy, and in course of time we may get houses which can be let at a reasonable and economic rental, and our beautiful England obtained ultimately but less rapidly.

A large number of houses have been inspected under the various Housing Acts, and many notices served on owners to remedy defects, and one finds that owners are more willing to remedy defects than last year; of eighty-four notices served, sixty-five had been complied with by the end of the year.

In bringing this annual review to a close I wish to once again record the able and efficient way in which the duties of Sanitary Inspector are carried out by Mr. S. J. Shelley.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DOUGLAS WELLS, O.B.E., M.B.

Appendix I.

APPENDICES.**HOUSING CONDITIONS.****Statistics.**

Year ended December 31st, 1920.

I. GENERAL.

Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	21,415
General Death-rate	...	...	...	...	11.3
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	50.5
Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	4,560
Number of working-class Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	2,830
Number of new working-class Houses erected	...	...	...	...	20

II. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.*(1) Inspection.*

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	293
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Houses (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	55
(c) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	130
(d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	80

(II) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(III) Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceeding under the Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	84
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied

(1) By owners	...	...	...	...	65
(2) By Local Authority in default of owners					Nil

Appendix II.

Water Supply.

Number of public wells—7. Number of new public wells sunk or new supplies afforded—Nil. Number of wells cleansed or repaired—3. Number of wells closed—1. Any insufficiency and where?—Ingrave and East Horndon. Water cisterns, number abolished—4. Samples of water for analysis—12.

Rivers and Streams.

Any instances of, or suspected, pollution of rivers or streams from trade effluent, sewage effluent, etc.—None.

Any complaints arising from such pollution?—No.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Any developments during 1920—Nil. Developments still needed as to want of sewers—In Laindon, East Horndon, Ingrave, Pitsea and Vange. Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells?—No complaints. Number of sink wastes disconnected during 1920—One. Number still needing disconnecting—Nil.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of privies with open middens—Nil. Number of pail or tub closets—1,717. Number of privies with covered middens—110. Number of water closets—1,625 waste-water closets, 926 not flushed. Number of privies re-constructed during 1920—(a) as w.c.'s, Nil; (b) other, 12. Number of additional closets provided for old property in 1920—(a) as w.c.'s, Nil; (b) other, Nil. Number of closets constructed in 1920 for new houses—(a) w.c.'s, 40; (b) other, 135.

Scavenging.

By whom is this undertaken?—By Contractors. Frequency of collection—Weekly. Are covered bins insisted upon?—Yes. How is refuse disposed of—(a) Destructor, No; (b) Tips, Partly on tips; (c) Farmers, Partly to farmers; Total annual cost, £835 6s. 0d. Any change during 1920 in methods of collection and disposal?—No. Any complaints in regard to manure heaps or dumps?—No.

Nuisance Inspection.

Number of inspections made in 1920—368. Number of nuisances in hand at close of 1919—63; at close of 1920, 55. Number of nuisances reported during 1920—308; abated during 1920, 247. Number of Informal Notices served—29; complied with, 21. Number of Statutory Notices served—103; complied with, 81. Number of Summonses or other legal proceedings—Nil.

Bakehouses—Number in district, 12; Number on Register, 12; Total number of inspections made, 24; General condition, Satisfactory.

Canal Boats—Nil.

Common Lodging Houses—Nil.

Knackers Yards—Number in district, 2; Number on Register, 2; Total number of inspections made, 6; General condition, Satisfactory, 1 improved during 1920.

Slaughter Houses—Number in district, 11; Number on Register, 11; Total number of inspections made, 40; General condition, Satisfactory.

Schools.

Number of visits to Schools by M.O.H., 26; by Sanitary Inspector, 22. Action taken—Improved latrines provided at three schools under notices served by Council.

Milk Supply.

What arrangements for Veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Nil. Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1920?—No. Number of cowkeepers in district—89; Number Registered—82. Number of milk sellers who are also cowkeepers—22; Number who are Purveyors only—15; Total number registered—73. Total number of cowsheds—100; Number of inspections in 1920—150; General Condition—Fair. Approximate number of Mich cows in district—1,800. Any insufficiency in milk supply?—No. Legal proceedings under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders—Nil. Any inspection or other action by districts to which milk is sent?—No.

Other Foods.

Number of seizures of unsound food—1 bullock carcase, 2 sheep carcasses, 97-lbs. bacon. Total quantity—3-cwt. 3-qrs.

Is there a Public Abattoir?—No.

Byelaws and Regulations.

Any adopted or revised during 1920?—No.

Infectious and other Diseases.

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1920?—None in particular. Number and kind of infectious cases isolated during 1920—127, chiefly Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. Is Hospital accommodation adequate?—Yes. Any influences threatening the health of the district?—Nil.

Bacteriology.

Is County Laboratory utilized?—Yes. Number of specimens examined at other than the County Laboratory—Nil.

Infant Mortality.

What organised effort to control it?—None, see details in report. Any action taken under Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918—Milk supplied free or at reduced rate where required.

Vital Statistics.

Births during 1920—Males, 230; Females, 225; Total, 455. Number illegitimate included in above—20.

Deaths during 1920—Males, 125; Females, 106; Total, 231.

Miscellaneous.

What mortuary accommodation other than at Isolation Hospital?—One at Billericay Workhouse. Is it adequate?—Yes.

Have Public Baths been provided?—No.

Sanitary Staff.

Name of Sanitary Inspector—S. J. Shelley. Annual salary as Sanitary Inspector—£314. Other occupations held—No. Any Assistants?—No, casual labour when required. Is Staff sufficient?—Yes.

Summary of Housing Work during 1920.

Number of houses inspected under Sec. 17 of 1909 Act—58.

Number found unfit for habitation—13.

Number of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders—9.

Number of Closing Orders made—8.

Number of houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders—13.

Number of houses made fit after Closing Orders were made—4.

Any Regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7)?—Nil in district.

Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1920—7.

Number of houses erected during 1920 by L.S.A.—8. Number occupied—Nil. Kind—Non-parlour. Rent per week to be 12s. 6d.

Number of houses erected during 1920 by others—175. Number occupied—175. Kind—62 Subsidy, 63 non-subsidy, 50 temporary.

Number of houses erected for Staff of Local Sanitary Authority, Nil.

Number of houses still to be provided by L.S.A.—160. Kind—Parlour and non-parlour.

Acreage of land acquired for housing schemes—Approx. 30 acres. Approx. number of houses per acre—6.

Localities in which land has been acquired—In each Parish of the District.

Town Planning.—Any schemes prepared during 1920?—Nil.

Appendix III.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises	No. of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	... 6	... —
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	14	... 2
Total	... 20	... 2

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—		
Want of cleanliness	1	—
Want of ventilation	1	—
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	2	2
Totals	5	2

3.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of the year.	No.
Bakehouses	12
Motor Garages and Repair Shops	6
Dressmakers, &c.	4
Laundries	5
Total number of Workshops on Register	27

4.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	No.
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at end of the year	Nil

(Signature) J. DOUGLAS WELLS,
Medical Officer of Health.